

quoting David Lewis, "Well, wait a minute. It doesn't have anything to do with pride. It probably took more courage for that kid to get food. It probably took a lot of courage for that kid to say, I cannot take care of my family; I need help."

Tom Jarriel further states, "Lewis calculated that by total hours junior enlisted troops do not even earn minimum wage."

Madam Speaker, I want to read that again.

□ 1245

"Lewis calculated that by total work hours, junior enlisted troops do not even earn minimum wage."

Madam Speaker, that is why I am on the floor today, and I have been once a week ever since we got back in February.

I introduced H.R. 1055, which would help our men and women in uniform on food stamps. I am pleased to say today that there is strong bipartisan support. We have approximately 90 people who have signed this bill. I am encouraging our leadership, as well as the Democratic leadership, to please, let us not leave here in September or October and not speak to those who are serving our Nation, those who are willing to die for this country, that are on food stamps.

To me that is unacceptable. That to me is what I think America stands for, is to help those in uniform who are willing to give their lives for this country.

What I have before me today is a Marine. This Marine is getting ready to deploy to Bosnia. We seem to be able to find \$9 million to \$10 million for Bosnia. We have already spent \$10 billion to \$11 billion in Yugoslavia. Yet, this cost to pass H.R. 1055 to get a \$500 tax credit for those on food stamps would only cost this government \$59 million over 10 years, roughly \$5 million a year.

I will be the first to say this will not get them off food stamps, but what I will say is that it will say to those in the military who are on food stamps that we in the Congress are concerned about the fact that they are on food stamps and they are willing to die for this country.

I look at the other bills that we pass in the Senate and the House, and we can find billions of dollars in tax credits for Tysons Food to study chicken manure and how this might help with energy problems. I say, let us take care of those first who are willing to take care of America. They are our men and women in uniform who are on food stamps.

I look at this little girl, Megan is her name. She is standing on the feet of her daddy. Do you know what, that serious look that she has, she is looking at a camera. In his arms he has his daughter Brittany. I am thinking about Megan. She does not know this

at her age, but her daddy might not come back. He might not come back. He is willing to give his life for this country.

This Marine represents all of our military in both Air Force, Navy, Army, and Coast Guard that are willing to serve this Nation.

Madam Speaker, I hope that our leadership, working together with the Democratic leadership, will see that we do something to help men and women in uniform on food stamps. I want to close my comments by sharing with you and the other Members here on the floor today a simple poem but I think a very powerful poem that was written by a Marine, Father Dennis O'Bryan, United States Marine Corps.

His poem goes like this:

It is the soldier, not the reporter,
Who has given us freedom of the press.
It is the soldier, not the poet,
Who has given us freedom of speech.
It is the soldier, not the campus organizer,
Who has given us the freedom to demonstrate.
It is the soldier who salutes the flag,
It is the soldier who serves beneath the flag.

Madam Speaker, it is the soldier whose coffin is draped by the flag who allows the protester to burn the flag.

Madam Speaker, I close by saying to the leadership in the House, please, let us pass this legislation to help those men and women in uniform on food stamps.

LIVABLE COMMUNITIES IN VIRGINIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, this week there is a meeting in Norfolk, Virginia, of the unsung heroes of the efforts to promote Virginia's livability, the town planners and the citizen volunteers who are on the front lines doing one of the hardest jobs in terms of coping with the problems of growth and development and sprawl in Virginia, but sadly, they have fewer tools than almost any State in the country.

They know what to do, but despite those efforts, the State of Virginia has had unbalanced growth over the course of the last 15 years. The 1990s were a disaster. There was a failure in 1990 to adopt minimal State planning goals that would have helped provide form and direction.

In 1995, the legislature in Virginia overwhelmingly defeated Virginia's Strategic Planning Act. Today we have a State administration that is asleep at the switch, and a legislature that is not helping the people of Virginia. There is no tie-in between their transportation investments and land use.

There is certainly a head-in-the-sand attitude regarding paying the bill.

Even if you are one of those people who still feel that we can pave our way out of traffic congestion, and that number is a smaller and smaller number across the country, because community after community has proven that we do not have enough concrete to pave our way out of congestion, but even if one believes that, in the State of Virginia there is no plan to deal with over \$50 billion of transportation investments that are conservatively required over the course of the next 20 years.

The Virginia Department of Transportation, VDOT, which is behind the curve as it relates to many of the transportation agencies around the country, was seriously damaged in the 1990s. There were ill-conceived programs of downsizing which ended up having a number of people who were terminated as retired, only to be hired back at higher salaries afterwards to try and move transportation projects along.

But I am pleased to say that there are some signs that things are happening in Virginia on the right side of the equation. First and foremost is that the citizens at the grass roots level are pushing back. There is increasing concern about unplanned growth.

In Loudon County we saw a sweep of eight smart growth candidates into county office, four Democrats, two Republicans, two Independents. It was a broad bipartisan effort to try and get back in control of their community. There were other electoral wins in Fairfax, Prince William, in Stafford, in towns and cities across Virginia.

In the city of Suffolk there is an integrated comprehensive plan and zoning to direct growth towards designated areas that can handle it. The highly respected Mason-Dixon poll in March showed that growth is the number one issue in the Shenandoah Valley. Even the conservative newspaper, the Richmond Times Dispatch, has had a 180-degree change recently, and recently editorialized on behalf of planning smarter.

Madam Speaker, Virginia has given much to this country, the home of Thomas Jefferson, of George Washington. It was a leader in the democratic institutions for the entire world.

It is my hope that their Governor and that their legislature will stop denying the problem, will work with us in Congress, will work more importantly, with people at the grass roots level, all working as partners for livable communities. If they are willing to do so, to deal with those planners, with those citizen volunteers, with simple, commonsense steps and structure to make the planning process work better, Virginia communities will in fact be more livable and all our families can be